BENGALURU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 81,287 | Nifty 25,178 | Gold 1,61,730 | Silver 2,71,400 | Dollar 91.08 | Euro 107.28 | GBP 123.01

Analysis shows general decline in groundwater levels at all monitored locations with Indiranagar's dip being most alarming and Varthur experiencing critical depletion; Yelahanka shows least deterioration

THE LAST DROP

Experts call for high-frequency monitoring to detect early warning signals of aquifer stress

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Groundwater levels in some parts of the city are rapidly declining, with some areas registering a drop of more than 4 metre in less than two years.

This has been highlighted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) using digital piezometers across 13 locations in the city. These devices, installed to monitor variations in groundwater levels, capture high-frequency, real-time groundwater level data every six hours.

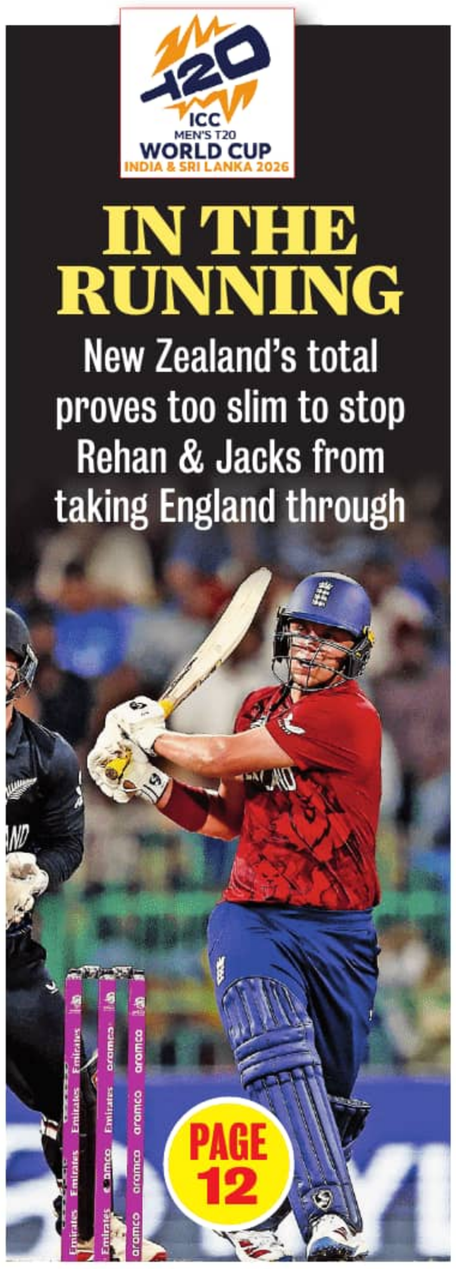
In Bengaluru, the piezometers are distributed across different urban settings, covering the northern, central, and peripheral eastern zones of the city: Yelahanka, Indiranagar, Jayanagar, and Varthur.

The analysis shows a general decline across all monitored locations, with the central and eastern parts of Bengaluru, particularly Indiranagar and Varthur, experiencing critical groundwater depletion.

As per the analysis of groundwater levels from June 2023 to February 2025, Indiranagar has the most alarming trend. The area has experienced a sharp decline of 4.346 metre per year during the period. The hydrograph shows a continuous and steep fall in water levels, indicating severe groundwater stress. As per CGWB, this is the impact of high urbanisation, extensive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"This (decline in groundwater levels) is the impact of high urbanisation, extensive groundwater extraction, and limited natural recharge due to low rainfall —Central Ground Water Board



Lilly A MEDICINE COMPANY

MY WEIGHT DOESN'T NEED BLAME.[1]
I JUST NEED THE RIGHT SUPPORT.

We often mistake obesity or weight struggles as a lifestyle issue or personal failure. Obesity is a chronic disease,[2] and complex factors beyond our control involving - hormones, genetics, and metabolism can cause biological resistance to weight loss.[3,4] If you feel like something is holding you back, then maybe your body is resisting weight loss, despite all the efforts you make.[5,6]

Have a weight loss conversation with a qualified doctor.[6,7]

OBESITY IS A DISEASE.[2] | CONSULT A DOCTOR, TODAY![6,7]

ObesityIsADisease.in

PP-LLY-IN-0001 | 30-1-2026
© 2025 Eli Lilly and Company | Issued in Public Interest by Lilly, India
Disclaimers: The content provided herein is intended solely for health awareness and educational purposes and should be used responsibly and ethically. The content does not promote, advertise, or endorse any specific product, treatment or brand and is solely intended to raise awareness. The content is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment nor should it be construed as medical guidance or a treatment recommendation. Always consult a qualified healthcare professional before making any health-related decisions. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this content, medical knowledge and guidelines are continually evolving. Eli Lilly makes no representations or warranties regarding the completeness or accuracy of this content and shall not be liable for any consequences, losses, injuries or damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use, misuse, misinterpretation or inaccurate application of such content. For adverse events and safety reporting, please reach out to: in_gps@lilly.com | For any additional information related to Lilly products, please reach out to: queries_in medinfo@lilly.com. | For further information about Lilly and Lilly products please contact us at the below address:
Eli Lilly and Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. Plot No.92, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, India Tel+91-124-4753000/01 www.lillyindia.co.in
References: 1. Daley, S. F., Ginsburg, B. M., & Sheer, A. J. (2025). Overcoming stigma and bias in obesity management. In StatPearls [Internet]. StatPearls Publishing. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK578197/ | 2. World Health Organization. (2025, December 8). Obesity and overweight (Fact sheet). https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/obesity-and-overweight | 3. MacLean PS, Bergouignan A, Cornier MA, Jackman MR. Biology's response to dieting: the impetus for weight regain. Am J Physiol Regul Integr Comp Physiol. 2011;301(3):R581–R600. doi:10.1152/ajpregu.00755.2010 | 4. Ochner CN, Barrios DM, Lee CD, Pi-Sunyer FX. Biological mechanisms that promote weight regain following weight loss in obese humans. Physiol Behav. 2013;120:106-113. doi:10.1016/j.physbeh.2013.07.009 | 5. Hall KD, Kahan S. Maintenance of lost weight and long-term management of obesity. Med Clin North Am. 2018;102(1):183-197. doi:10.1016/j.mcna.2017.08.012 | 6. Greenway FL. Physiological adaptations to weight loss and factors favouring weight regain. Int J Obes (Lond). 2015;39(8):1188-1196. doi:10.1038/ijo.2015.59 | 7. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Overweight and obesity: treatment. US Department of Health and Human Services. Updated March 24, 2022. Accessed October 8, 2024.https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/overweight-and-obesity/treatment

Racecourse threatens to raze Kunigal's horse breeding legacy
Environmentalists warn racecourse introduction will increase pollution, traffic, commercial pressure, irreversibly damaging biodiversity, wildlife, Kunigal Lake ecosystem balance, and heritage forever

BangaloreMirror | 2
Saturday, February 28, 2026
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Culinary champs honoured The second edition of VK and BM Food and NightLife Awards honoured 23 leading restaurants for shaping the city's vibrant hospitality culture. Chief guest Kripal Amanna and actor entrepreneur Viranika Shetty highlighted quality, authenticity and innovation as the pillars of lasting success in the food industry. Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka CEO Deepak Saluja, VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli were also present.

THINGS TO DO

01 Narratives in rhythm

Atta Galatta is bringing 'Weaving A Story', a curated exploration of classical dance and textile through stories by Aparna Jaishankar, organised in partnership with Janani Murali, Bharatanatyam practitioner and Shruthi Kezhakepuram Purushotham, Mohiniyattam exponent. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 28, 6.30 pm**

02 Picture this

Lenscape Kerala, a photography exhibition presented by Kerala Tourism, features a curated collection of 100 images captured across Kerala by ten acclaimed photographers from different parts of India. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art; When: Until March 1, 11 am to 7 pm**

03 Rhythm and reflection

Bhoomija, in collaboration with the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA), will present The Storied Song, a concert that brings together music and narrative in an intimate and reflective format. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: March 1, 6.30 pm**

04 Jazz in the air

Windmills Craftworks is presenting A Night of Gershwin, Hollywood Classics & More, a jazz and classical crossover performance featuring Lola (LOLA G) and Tomasz Bura. **Where: Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield; When: February 28, 9.30 pm**

02 Lost in the story

The Indian Heritage Academy (IHA), in collaboration with Azim Premji University, presents Kailasamsaara, a vibrant Kannada comedy celebrating the life and legacy of TP Kailasam, revisiting his wit, literary brilliance, and unconventional spirit. **Where: Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala; When: Feb 28, 6.30 pm**

Activists urge consultation with children before mobile ban

Child rights activist stresses need to hear children's perspective before restricting mobile use in letter to CM, says their views must be given due importance in decision-making process

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Child rights activists have urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to consult children before deciding on a proposal to ban mobile phone use among students under 16 years of age.

Speaking at a meeting convened by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, the Chief Minister said the proposal, aimed at tackling concerns over social media addiction and its adverse impact on children, remains at the discussion stage. He sought the views of Vice Chancellors on restricting minors from using mobile phones.

Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, has reportedly appealed to the Chief Minister to seek the opinion of children across the state on the proposed ban on using mobile phones.

"It has come to notice that the Karnataka Government is considering imposing a ban on mobile phone usage for children below 16 years of age. To this end, an expert committee has been formed to conduct a study and provide recommendations. However, I am deeply concerned that no efforts have been made so far to seek or incorporate the opinions of the very children who will be directly affected by this decision. I am writing this letter to draw your kind attention to this important matter," the letter read.

Bangalore Mirror
Mobile ban is easier said than done, say education stakeholders

BM had reported on Feb 24 how stakeholders had advised against blanket ban

He said that as per the Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them. "These views must be given due importance in accordance with the child's age and maturity, and respected in decision-making processes. This is a fundamental right that promotes children's participation. Similarly, India's National Policy for Children 2013 identifies survival, health, education, protection, and participation as key priorities for children," the letter highlighted.

Rao appealed to the Chief Minister to create a safe and user-friendly online platform where children can easily and securely share their opinions on this issue. "Organise consultation meetings in schools to gather children's views directly. Include child representatives in the expert committee or ensure that children's opinions are duly considered in its deliberations. These measures would not only uphold children's rights but also help formulate a more informed, effective, and comprehensive policy," the letter read.

Dr Thippeswamy KT, member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), suggested that it should be ensured that school teachers record homework in each child's diary, rather than sending assignments through WhatsApp groups created for parents. "Generally, most students below 16 years old do not carry mobile phones to school. The government cannot keep a vigil on students below 16 years using mobile phones at home. If the teachers continue sending WhatsApp messages on the homework, students will have access to their parents' mobile phones on the pretext of knowing assignments given by the teacher. If the government ensures teachers enter assignments manually in the diary of each student, it will avoid children accessing mobile phones at home," said Dr Thippeswamy.

Letter suggests organising school consultations to hear children's views directly and ensuring their opinions are considered to help shape more informed, effective policy

Man relieved of kidnap charges

The Karnataka High Court has ordered the release of a man who was remanded to judicial custody on allegations that he had kidnapped his wife, observing that the woman — a major — had voluntarily accompanied him and that the offence had been incorrectly invoked.
The complainant, the woman's mother, had alleged that her daughter had been kidnapped by him. Justice M Nagaprasanna, while examining the matter, noted that it was undisputed that the woman was above 18 years of age and had married accused No 1. In such circumstances, the court held that the offence of kidnapping had been wrongly applied.

— BMB

Rape accused granted bail

HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has granted bail to a man charged with raping a 15-year-old girl, noting that the records placed before it indicated the two were in a romantic relationship and that the girl was old enough to understand the consequences of her actions.

Justice Shivashankar Amrannavar, while allowing the plea, recorded that the girl was 15 years old according to her school documents. Referring to her statement to the Investigating Officer, the court noted that she had spoken about being in a love relationship with the petitioner.
The court observed that the material suggested the existence of a consensual relationship.
The court pointed out that the investigation had been completed and the charge sheet filed, and therefore the accused was not required for further custodial interrogation. Considering that he had no prior criminal record and was already in judicial custody, the court granted bail subject to conditions.

— BMB

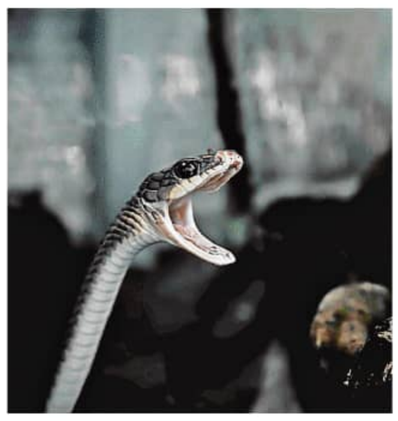
Child can keep mom's surname in birth certificate

The Karnataka High Court has allowed a plea seeking modification of a minor girl's birth certificate to reflect her mother's surname instead of her father's, holding that such a change does not take away any substantive legal rights.
The order was passed by Justice Suraj Govindaraj while hearing a petition filed on behalf of the minor child by her mother. The mother had approached the court after authorities declined to make corrections to the birth record, stating that they lacked the power to do so without a court directive. According to the plea, the child was born out of a live-in relationship. The father later left the country and allegedly did not continue the relationship or assume responsibility for the child.

Emphasising the welfare of the child, the court noted that a custodial parent is entitled to take decisions concerning the child's name, particularly when the other parent is absent and not participating in the child's upbringing.

— BMB

K'taka introduces action plan to tackle snakebites



On Friday, Karnataka published its State Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (SAPSE), becoming the first state in India to introduce a comprehensive, state-level roadmap dedicated to tackling snakebite.

The plan provides a broad framework for management, prevention, and control of snakebite envenoming. This is aimed at reducing the deaths and disability due to snakebite envenoming by half by 2030. SAPSE will also serve as a guidance document for the reduction of snakebite envenoming risk through sustained availability of anti-snake venom, capacity building, referral mechanism, and public education.

Main strategies under the plan include prevention of snakebites by creating awareness through IEC activities, bringing change in treatment-seeking behaviour of the rural population during snakebite by health education, and through effective management of all snakebite cases, including early transportation of the patient to the nearest health facility, prompt administration of ASV, etc.

Experts say, from being the first state in the country to declare snakebite a notifiable condition to now launching a comprehensive State Action Plan, Karnataka has taken progressive, evidence-based steps that set a model for others to emulate.

"In conjunction with the efforts of other agencies such as the Forest Department, the state is uniquely addressing snakebite in a holistic manner, safeguarding vulnerable communities while promoting conservation of snakes. The Action Plan reflects a clear commitment to saving lives, and we are proud of the decisive leadership demonstrated by the Government of Karnataka," said Sumanth Bindumadhav, Director of wildlife team at Humane World for Animals India.

Gerry Martin, founder trustee at The Liana Trust, said Karnataka has emerged as a trailblazer in India's response to snakebite.

— BMB

Get it all for your family

LIC's JEEVAN LAKSHYA

Plan No.:733 UIN No: 512N297V03

Plan for an assured future for your family.

SALIENT FEATURES :
- Minimum Sum Assured : ₹2,00,000
- Maximum Sum Assured : No Limit
- Age Eligibility : 18 to 50 Years
- Maximum Maturity Age : 65 Years
- Policy Term : 13 to 25 Years
- Premium Paying Term : 3 Years Less Than Policy Term
- Maturity Benefit : Sum Assured + Bonuses
- Death Benefit : Annual Income Benefit and Final Payment of Sum Assured + Bonuses on Maturity Date
- Optional Riders : 1) LIC's Accidental Death and Disability Benefit Rider 2) LIC's Accident Benefit Rider 3) LIC's New Term Assurance Rider

Par, Non-linked, Life, Individual, Savings plan

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'

For details, contact your Agent/ nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in

Download LIC Mobile App digital | Visit: licindia.in | Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

LIC भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC/P1/2025 – 2026/33/Eng

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies ,announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

East Bengaluru corridor plan promises jam-free journeys

Strategic connector project gains traction, promising signal-free traffic and separated junctions transforming commutes across booming technology districts

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Planned connector route promises faster access between major employment hubs

Revamped commercial corridor scheme introduces eleven flyovers, revised layouts, payout alternatives, aiming seamless transit across expanding metropolitan stretches

In a significant development for Bengaluru's tech corridor, efforts have been stepped up to fast-track land acquisition for the proposed 24-metre-wide road connecting the Outer Ring Road and the Peripheral Ring Road. The move is expected to ease congestion in key IT hubs such as Mahadevapura and Doddanekkundi, offering long-awaited relief to thousands of daily commuters.

Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar said this forms part of the Revised Master Plan 2015 under the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits. The proposed Phase 1 stretch will link the Outer Ring Road and Peripheral Ring Road through Mahadevapura, Doddanekkundi, Pattandur Agrahara and Nagonahalli areas that house major technology parks and residential clusters. Lokhande directed officials to immediately take possession of properties earmarked for road widening in the approved development plan and to compile details of the remaining parcels pending acquisition. Instructions were also issued to initiate the required land acquisition notifications without delay.

11 interchanges planned on Bengaluru Business Corridor for signal-free connectivity

The Bangalore Development Authority has finalised a revised design for the proposed 73-kilometre Bengaluru Business Corridor project, providing for 11 interchanges at key locations to ensure seamless, signal-free traffic movement. The corridor will run from the NICE Road junction on Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road via Ballari Road and Hoskote Road.

Following the renaming of the Peripheral Ring Road project as the Bengaluru Business Corridor, certain design changes have been introduced. Interchanges will be constructed at major road and highway crossings along the stretch to facilitate smooth entry and exit of vehicles. Except at these designated points, there will be no provision for crossing from one side of the corridor to the other. Most of the interchanges will follow the cloverleaf model, allowing vehicles from all directions to move simultaneously without stoppage. With land acquisition and design aspects largely finalised, authorities expect construction to proceed without hurdles.

A senior official said land acquisition has already commenced and landowners are being offered five compensation options. However, confusion remains among some property owners regarding the compensation models. Identified interchange locations include the Hosur Road junction, Sarjapur, Gunjur, Whitefield, Old Madras Road, Hennur Road, Ballari Road, Doddaballapur Road, Hesaraghatta Road, the Madavara NICE junction and the Madanayakanahalli stretch. Designs have also been adjusted to ensure existing properties are not affected, though at two or three locations the interchange loops may be wider to accommodate space requirements, the official added.

Satellite Road project revived

The long-delayed Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road project is expected to move forward shortly, with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari assuring that a proposal will soon be placed before the Union Cabinet for approval and to expedite compensation to landowners. The assurance came in response to a representation by Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who had drawn attention to the hardships faced by thousands of people whose land was acquired but whose compensation remains pending.

The 280.8 km Suburban Ring Road, planned by the National Highways Authority of India to ease Bengaluru's traffic congestion and connect 12 satellite townships, will cover 243 km in Karnataka and 45 km in Tamil Nadu. Gadkari stated that Cabinet approval is required before compensation can be resumed and confirmed that the proposal has been prepared and forwarded for consideration. **— BMB**

Walk this way, without worry now

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Policemen gathered on the foot over bridge on Friday morning to keep a vigil on sex workers and transgenders

Finally, women commuters can use the foot overbridge at Kempegowda Bus Station in the Majestic area. Alarmed by the presence of sex workers and transgenders on the foot overbridge, the Upparpet Police Inspector has deployed constables to ensure it remains free from nuisance and inappropriate behaviour.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, Sleaze at the Stop, on January 12, 2026, describing how sex workers scouting for customers at Majestic Bus Station had become a nuisance for commuters and BMTC employees. On Friday morning, more than 15 police officers, led by an Assistant Police Inspector, gathered on the foot overbridge to keep vigil. "We have been assigned to monitor those ruining the image of Bengaluru with inappropriate behaviour. These individuals are not only a nuisance but are also damaging the reputation of the bus station," said an Assistant Sub-Inspector.

Constables have been stationed at all entry points to Kempegowda Bus Station to prevent sex workers and transgenders from entering the premises and the foot overbridge. "I am from Halasuru Police Station. All the constables are from different stations. We have to be here from morning until evening," said a constable. Meanwhile, the Upparpet Police Inspector said media reports about the nuisance prompted these measures. "Constables from Upparpet Police Station are visiting Kempegowda Bus Station regularly. Additionally, we are deploying officers assigned to security duty at Freedom Park whenever there are no protests or meetings there. Instead of keeping them idle, we deploy them at the bus station," he said.

Many BMTC commuters and pedestrians have appreciated the police action. "It was not easy to use the foot overbridge a few days ago due to their presence. Now women can use it without hassle. I congratulate the Upparpet Police Inspector and request him to continue the vigil," said Umesh S, a commuter. Sudhakar N thanked the police, saying bus stations are for commuters, and urged continued monitoring of the disturbance-free foot overbridge.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage menace

Basavanagudi

Garbage accumulation has been reported on Bull Temple Road in Basavanagudi, near the BSNL office.

Pavement blocked

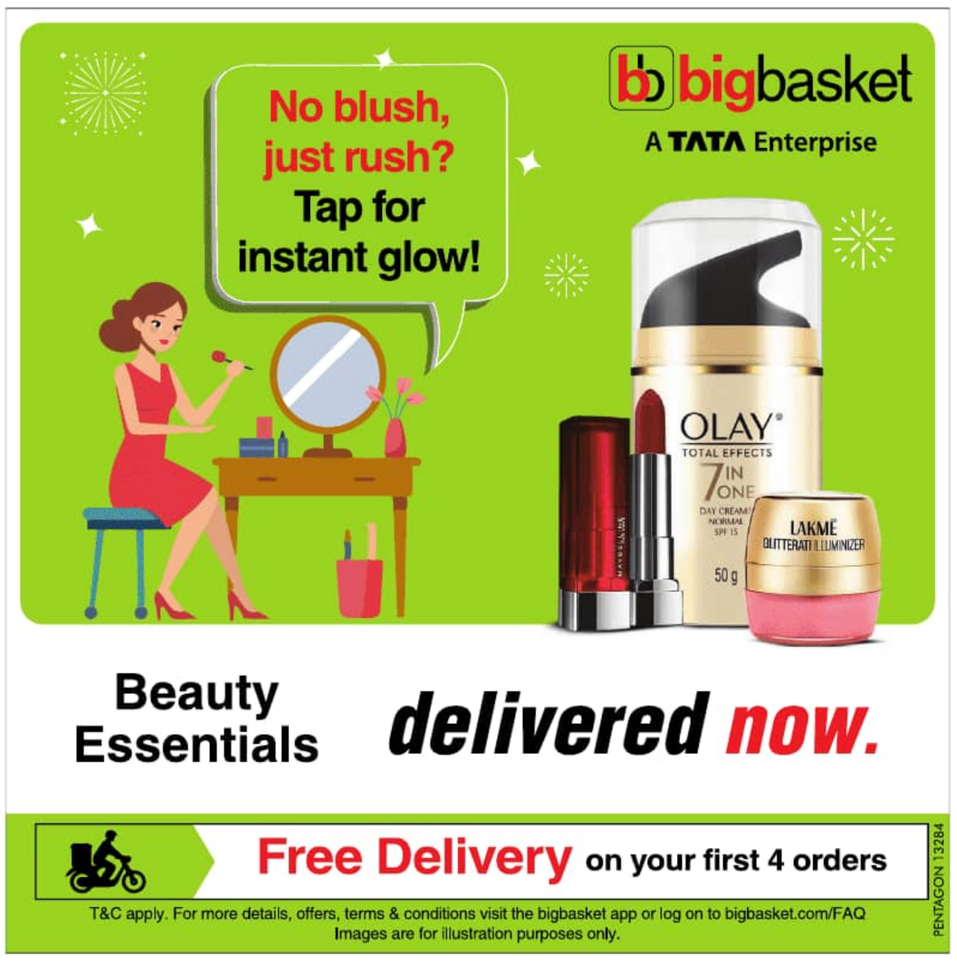
Jayanagar

A hoarding opposite to a hotel on 36th Cross, 4th T Block, has been blocking the pavement for months, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and affecting the area's appearance.

Wire hazard

Hebbal

Loose high-tension wires are lying on the ground along a busy service lane in Vayunandana Layout, Hebbal Kempapura, posing serious safety risks.



PAGE 13

Non-stop grind: Isha Koppikar speaks about tough working hours in film industry

Hoysala patrol restores family's hope

In a heartening display of prompt policing, two officers from Vidyaranyapura Police Station were commended for reuniting a disoriented elderly woman with her family. The incident unfolded while the officers were on Hoysala patrol in the North East Division, when they received an urgent alert from the Hoysala Control Room about an unidentified elderly woman found in a helpless condition near Sambhram College within station limits. Responding without delay, the officers rushed to the location and ensured the woman's immediate safety and comfort. **–BMB**

CCB busts illegal gun racket

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested two men for allegedly transporting and supplying illegal firearms in the city. A country-made 0.32 mm pistol and 50 live cartridges were seized from their possession.

The accused have been identified as Syed Masood (26), a resident of Bengaluru, and Javed Alam, a resident of Bupal. A case was registered at the CCB Police Station on Wednesday, under provisions of the Arms Act following a complaint about illegal possession and transport of prohibited weapons. During the investigation, officers apprehended one suspect in Bengaluru for allegedly importing firearms from outside the state without a valid licence, while the other was reportedly supplying them. **–BMB**

₹91-lakh theft case cracked, two held

The Sadashivnagar police have arrested two men in connection with the theft of ₹91.76 lakh from a builders and mining company office on BEL Road and recovered ₹81.66 lakh in cash. The accused have been identified as Dhananjay (28), a resident of RT Nagar, and Praveen Naik M (29), a native of Malavagoppa in Shivamogga district.

According to police, the office owner had locked the premises on the night of February 19. The next morning, a shattered glass door alerted him to the break-in. Of the ₹1.76 crore kept in a drawer, ₹91.76 lakh was stolen. Police arrest two, and recover Rs 81 lakh, abscond. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Trusted messenger escapes with ₹33 lakh

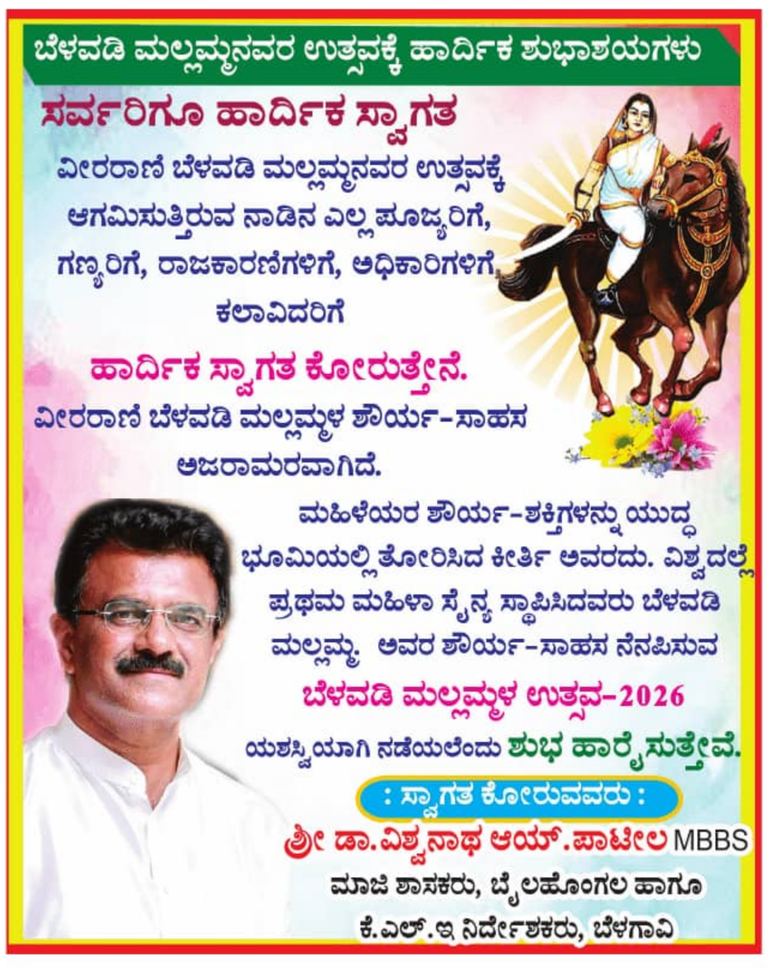
An out-of-state man was arrested by the Bharathinagar Police for allegedly cheating a jewellery shop owner and fleeing with gold ornaments worth 33.50 lakh. The accused, Dharmveer Singh alias Pintu (23), from Atitmand village in Rajasthan's Bayawar district, was apprehended and 239 grams of gold jewellery were recovered.

According to a complaint filed on September 23, 2025, the incident occurred at a shop on OPH Jumma Masjid Road. **–BMB**

Domestic help held in ₹35 lakh theft

A domestic worker has been arrested for allegedly stealing silverware and gold ornaments worth 35 lakh from her employer's residence to fund her husband's cancer treatment. The arrest was made by the JB Nagar Police after a complaint was filed on January 28, by a resident of an apartment in Challaghat. The complainant noticed the silver articles missing while checking valuables ahead of Dasara and suspected the maid, who had worked there for over two-and-a-half years.

She was remanded to police custody and later to judicial custody. **–BMB**



ASHA workers intensify protest over pay, job cuts

Ahead of the State Budget, Karnataka ASHA workers intensify protests demanding honorarium hike, arrears clearance, job security, and immediate withdrawal of proposed rationalisation dismissals

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Protesters hold signs seeking ₹10,000 minimum guarantee and release of pending arrears during the state-level demonstration

Accusing the government of reneging on manifesto promises and excluding them from Budget allocations, ASHA workers warn of statewide agitation if honorarium revisions, benefits, and job security measures remain unaddressed

Ahead of the upcoming State Budget, a large-scale state-level protest was held at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. The demonstrators called for an increase in honorarium, implementation of long-pending demands, and the immediate withdrawal of the move to terminate around 7,000 ASHA workers under the pretext of "rationalisation."

Leaders of the Karnataka Rajya ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha said the protest was sparked by what they described as repeated assurances from the government that have not translated into official orders. D Nagalakshmi, State Secretary of the association, said that during a day-and-night protest held from January 7 to 10, 2025, the Chief Minister had personally assured union representatives on the fourth day that ASHA workers would be provided a minimum monthly guarantee of ₹10,000.

"Based on his assurance of a ₹1,000 hike, similar to that given to Anganwadi and Mid-day Meal workers, the protest was withdrawn. However, the March 2025 Budget excluded ASHA workers entirely," she said. She also pointed out that the Congress party's election manifesto had promised to raise the honorarium from ₹5,000 to ₹8,000. "Even after 14 months, no official order has been issued. Despite numerous meetings with ministers and officials, there has been no result, forcing us back onto the streets," she added. In their pre-Budget memorandum, the workers demanded that the Central and State shares be combined to ensure a fixed monthly honorarium of ₹15,000. They urged the government to fulfil its manifesto promise by increasing the State honorarium from ₹5,000 to ₹8,000 in the March 2026 Budget.

The association also sought retirement benefits in the form of a lump-sum gratuity on the West Bengal model, the establishment of a corpus fund to cover treatment costs for serious illnesses with reimbursement support, and payment of a fixed honorarium for three months to workers recovering from severe ailments.

On administrative issues, the workers called on the government to immediately halt the process of removing ASHA workers under the guise of "rationalisation." They insisted that ASHA facilitators be continued in service with appropriate pay and that pending arrears of ₹1,500 per month for 2024–25 be released without delay. The association also demanded clearance of long-pending dues related to TB, TBI and other components, along with the immediate release of the promised ₹1,000 incentive for conducting the State Government Guarantee survey.

Somashekar Yadgiri, State President of the association, alleged that the move to cut jobs violated Central Government guidelines. "No other state in India has implemented such a measure. This attempt to 'rationalise' based on population metrics has sparked widespread outrage among ASHA workers," he said.

Responding to the protest, Dr Vasanthkumar, Director of Health and Family Welfare, said proposals had been submitted to the government, including a ₹1,000 increase in monthly honorarium, creation of a medical corpus fund, and provision of a fixed three-month honorarium for workers recovering from serious illnesses.

The State Committee warned that if concrete measures are not announced in the forthcoming Budget, it will launch an intensified statewide agitation.

City will have to adapt rooftop rain harvesting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

groundwater extraction, and limited natural recharge due to low rainfall. Varthur is the next in line with a steady decline of 1.469 metre per year in groundwater level. The hydrograph of the area reveals relatively smooth seasonal fluctuations without any marked recovery phase, suggesting continuous groundwater withdrawal in the area with minimal intervention for recharge enhancement. Jayanagar has recorded a water level decline of 1.057 mt/year. However, it has also registered a slight recovery after a marked decline through 2023. This suggests a possible influence of favorable rainfall in late 2024. But despite the recovery, the net trend remains negative, calling for sustained management efforts. Yelahanka, with a decline of

0.932 metre per year in groundwater level from June 2023 to February 2025, has recorded the least deterioration in the water levels. The water level in the area underwent a gradual decline through 2023 and most of 2024, followed by a significant rise during early 2025.

"This recovery reflects episodic recharge events, potentially from postmonsoon infiltration or recharge interventions," CGWB has noted.

Experts say a high rate of urbanisation and overexploitation of the resource have led to significant pressure on the city's aquifer systems. They stressed on the urgent need to adopt demand-side groundwater management, scale up artificial recharge structures, and enforce regulated groundwater extraction, especially in overexploited zones.

Continuous high-frequency monitoring is essential to detect early warning signals of aquifer stress and evaluate the effectiveness of recharge strategies.

Rooftop rainwater harvesting

Experts say a mandatory rooftop rainwater harvesting system and recharge structures across the city are the need of the hour.

Official data provided by BWSSB shows that so far, a little over 2.2 lakh properties in Bengaluru with Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) water connections have installed rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems.

In addition, around 2 lakh residential buildings with roof areas exceeding 100 m^2, particularly in the eastern and north-eastern zones of the city, are recommended as feasible for rooftop rain water harvesting adoption. With an estimated recharge potential of 61.83 m^3 per residential unit per year, the total recharge potential from these 2 lakh buildings is projected at 12.36 million cubic metre annually, contributing significantly to urban aquifer sustainability.

METRO UPDATES

Yellow line gets eighth train boost

Commuters on Namma Metro's Yellow Line received partial relief on Friday, after the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) inducted its eighth trainset into regular service on the 19.15-km elevated corridor between RV Road and Bommasandra. The additional rake is expected to ease crowding on one of the city's busiest stretches.

From Friday, trains will operate at a frequency of nine minutes during peak hours, reduced from 10 minutes, and every 14 minutes during non-peak hours, improved from 18 minutes, between Monday and Saturday. BMRCL clarified that there will be no changes to Sunday schedules, and first and last train timings from both terminals remain unchanged.

The move follows sustained commuter pressure, including an appeal by former Infosys CFO TV Mohandas Pai to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and BMRCL, urging deployment of the eighth train instead of keeping it as a standby. The trainset underwent thorough testing before entering service.

Early metro boost for police marathon

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that metro services will commence two hours earlier than usual at 5 am instead of 7 am on Sunday, March 1, 2026. The special schedule is aimed at ensuring smooth and hassle-free travel for thousands of participants attending the 3rd Edition of the Karnataka State Police Run at Vidhana Soudha. Early morning operations will be available across all three operational corridors of Namma Metro. Trains will run on the Purple Line between Challaghatta and Whitefield, the Green Line from Silk Institute to Madavara, and the Yellow Line connecting RV Road and Bommasandra. Currently, the Purple Line spans 43.5 km with 37 stations, the Green Line covers 33.5 km with 32 stations, and the 19.15 km-long Yellow Line has 16 stations. The one-day operational change underscores BMRCL's commitment to facilitating major public events while maintaining efficient urban mobility.

Nagawara–Dairy circle works reviewed

The ongoing construction of the Nagawara–Dairy Circle (R-6) metro corridor was inspected by Dr J Ravishankar, Managing Director of Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). He assessed progress on station works, tunnelling, track laying, system installations, testing timelines and finishing activities. Interacting with officials, contractors and engineers, he emphasised stronger coordination across departments to ensure timely completion and maintain high standards of passenger comfort and operational efficiency. The corridor is set to enhance North–South connectivity in Bengaluru, reduce traffic congestion and ease daily commuting. Once operational, it is expected to save travel time, especially during peak office and school hours, benefiting thousands of regular commuters across the city. — BMB

Racecourse threatens to raze Kunigal's horse breeding legacy

Environmentalists warn racecourse introduction will increase pollution, traffic, commercial pressure, irreversibly damaging biodiversity, wildlife, Kunigal Lake ecosystem balance, and heritage forever

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A meeting was held on Thursday at the Kunigal town Kannada Sahitya Parishat under the leadership of the Committee for the Protection of the Kunigal Horse Farm. Participants strongly condemned the Karnataka Government's Cabinet decision to lease 110 acres of land reserved for horse-breed conservation to relocate the Bengaluru Turf Club race course.

They alleged that the Kunigal constituency MLA, Dr Ranganath, has waited for years to use this land for real estate dealings and, under the pretext of a race course, plans luxury resorts, golf courses, and similar commercial activities.

They said the horse farmland, under the Department of Animal Husbandry, must be used only for animal husbandry purposes as per the 1964 Land Revenue Act. Ignoring this law, they alleged that an illegal blue map has been prepared to declare the entire horse farmland for commercial use, which the protest committee strongly condemned.

They further accused MLA Ranganath of betraying people by falsely claiming the race course would create employment for local youth. According to them, it would not create jobs but would trap youth in gambling and destroy lives.

Jagadish, a local resident, said "Kunigal Stud Farm is a pride of Karnataka and India. It is a world-famous horse breeding centre with a legacy spanning over 200 years. The town of Kunigal itself grew around this establishment, and generations of local people have taken immense pride in the famous Kunigal horses. In recent years, however, political interests have attempted to dismantle this historic institution under various pretexts. A few years ago, there was an attempt to break up the stud farm in the name of a "township project." United protests by local citizens, Kannada activists, environmentalists, and historians successfully forced the authorities to withdraw that proposal."

Cabinet has okayed leasing 110 acres of land in Kunigal stud farm for relocation of the Bengaluru Turf Club race course

"The stud farm supports rich biodiversity and plays a vital role in sustaining the ecosystem of the famous Kunigal Lake. Allowing racing activities here will irreversibly harm wildlife, water systems, and the natural heritage of the region

–Vijay Nishanth, environmentalist

Vijay Nishanth, an environmentalist opposing the decision, said "A breeding centre and a racing track serve entirely different purposes. Introducing a racing track will destroy the wholeness of this historic space. It will bring excessive noise, pollution, traffic, and commercial pressure severely damaging an ecology that has evolved over three centuries. Allowing racing activities here will irreversibly harm wildlife, water systems, and the natural heritage of the region."

Protesters demanded the government immediately revoke the decision and protect the historic farm, biodiversity, and public interest for future generations and forever.

K'taka Cabinet okays Rohith Vemula Bill

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the draft Rohith Vemula Bill, clearing the way for its introduction in the upcoming budget session. The proposed law aims to address caste-based discrimination in educational institutions and safeguard students from marginalised communities.Home Minister G Parameshwara said the draft will be sent to the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement for examination and recommendations before being tabled in the Assembly. The government will incorporate feedback from stakeholders.

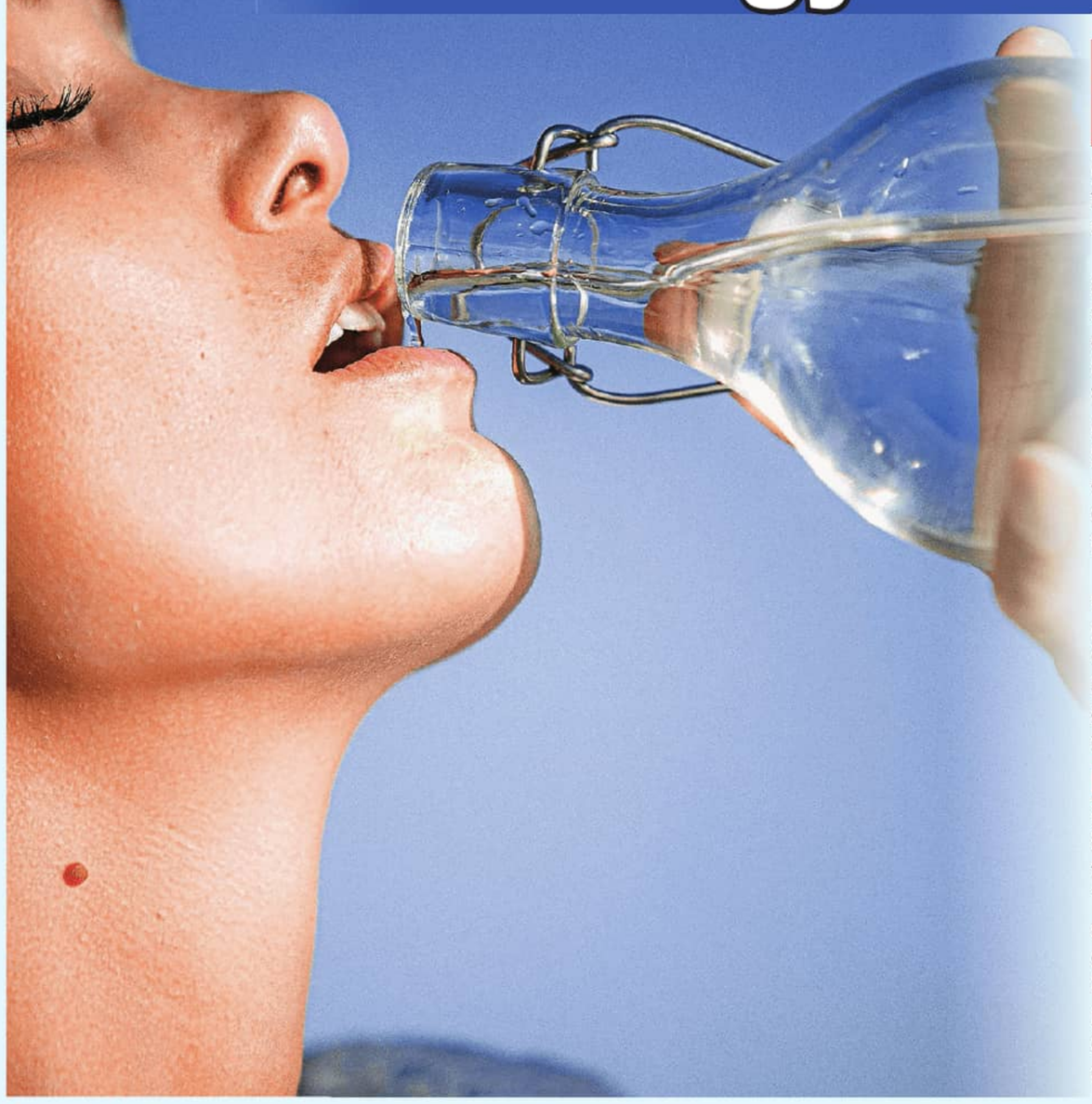
Named after Rohith Vemula, a scholar at the University of Hyderabad, the law proposes anti-discrimination committees with quasi-civil powers to examine complaints and strengthen accountability across higher education institutions statewide for students everywhere in Karnataka today. **–BMB**

Raids across city; 16 held for narcotics peddling

The Narcotics Control Unit of the Central Crime Branch,with city police, conducted raids across Bengaluru and arrested 16 persons, including eight outsiders and two women, for allegedly selling banned narcotics. Police seized 3,000 MDMA ecstasy pills weighing 1 kg 939 grams, 48 kg 750 grams of ganja, 306 grams of hydro ganja, and 200 grams of MDMA crystal. The estimated value is ₹2.62 crore, with market value ₹5.24 crore. Police arrested Subhashini (42) in Bagalur for operating network linked to absconding Nigeria supplier. NDPS cases registered, investigation continues across multiple city jurisdictions and suppliers involved today. **–BMB**

SPOTLIGHT

Kenvue Unveils Dual Hydration Strategy with ORSL and eRZL



Kenvue has strengthened its presence in India's fast growing hydration segment with a clear two brand approach designed to address both medical and everyday needs. With ORSL and eRZL, the company aims to deliver complete hydration solutions backed by science and built for modern lifestyles.

At a time when dehydration is emerging as a significant public health concern, Kenvue's strategy brings sharper differentiation to the category. ORSL will now represent the company's Oral Rehydration Salts portfolio based on the World Health Organization formula, specifically meant to manage diarrhoeal dehydration. Available in ready to drink and powder formats, ORSL ensures 100 percent WHO recommended osmolarity, offering caregivers and healthcare professionals a reliable and convenient option.

eRZL, effective January 2026, becomes the new identity for the company's electrolyte drinks portfolio, earlier sold under ORSL. Positioned for everyday hydration and recovery from tiredness and exhaustion, eRZL addresses non diarrhoeal dehydration, a growing but often overlooked concern in India's heat and humidity.

Improved Formula

Kenvue has introduced eRZL with a new and improved composition tailored for faster hydration compared to water. The drink now contains 1.4 times more electrolytes and eight times less sugar compared to its earlier formulation. It also offers 87 percent less sugar than the previous ORSL electrolyte drink variants. Designed for mild to moderate dehydration such as heat exhaustion, muscle cramps or fatigue, eRZL combines three key electrolytes sodium, potassium and chloride along with Vitamin C and real fruit juice. The result is a refreshing, low sugar hydration option that does not compromise on taste. The range is available in Lemon, Apple and Orange flavours and includes variants such as Classics, Immunity+, Active+ and Rehydrate+, catering to varied consumer preferences.

Manish Anandani, Managing Director India, Kenvue, said the company has consistently led the hydration category through deep consumer insight and a strong scientific foundation. He noted that with dehydration becoming a larger health issue, the launch of ORSL and eRZL as two distinct brands allows the company to serve both illness-led and daily hydration needs while tapping into the expanding electrolyte drinks market.

Prashant Shinde, Business Unit Head Self Care, Kenvue India, added that rising health awareness has increased demand for low sugar and low calorie hydration options. The improved eRZL composition, he said, offers consumers a smarter alternative beyond water when they feel depleted.

Dr Nikhil Bangale, Head Medical and Safety Sciences, Kenvue India, emphasised that while diarrhoeal dehydration is widely recognised, everyday dehydration often goes unnoticed. He highlighted the importance of choosing electrolyte drinks with optimal concentrations of electrolytes and nutrients to enable faster and more effective rehydration.

With ORSL addressing medical dehydration and eRZL supporting everyday recovery, Kenvue's dual brand strategy signals a focused step towards building awareness and encouraging better hydration habits across India.

Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror felicitate 16 achievers from Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga and Chitradurga editions for contributions across sectors

Honouring Silent Achievers Across Karnataka

The 'VK Excellence and Honour' Awards, organised by Vijay Karnataka at a private hotel in Bengaluru, honoured 16 achievers from the Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga and Chitradurga editions across various fields. Minor Irrigation Minister N. S. Boseraju, actress Sanjana Anand, CEO of Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror Deepak Saluja, and Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli were present

In a celebration that placed the spotlight on dedication rather than publicity, Vijay Karnataka honoured individuals who have been making a meaningful difference in society without seeking attention. At the VK Excellence and Honour Awards ceremony held at a private hotel in Bengaluru, 16 achievers from the Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga and Chitradurga editions were felicitated for their contribution across diverse sectors.

The event reflected the newspaper's continued commitment to recognising grassroots achievers and reinforcing its larger role in social responsibility. The awardees expressed happiness that their sustained efforts had been acknowledged on a credible and widely respected platform.

Presenting the awards, Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju said such recognition serves as motivation for achievers to continue striving for excellence. He urged them to not only scale greater professional heights but also to mentor others and contribute to the development of their respective regions. Appreciating the initiative, he said identifying and honouring those who work selflessly without seeking publicity is both necessary and inspiring.

The awards programme was inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the lamp by Minister N. S. Boseraju and actress Sanjana Anand

Trust is the Foundation of VK

Deepak Saluja, CEO of Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, emphasised that credibility forms the foundation of the publication. He said its reports have consistently contributed to informed public discourse and even shaped policy conversations. Beyond delivering news, he added, the newspaper aims to educate and inspire readers with constructive and meaningful content that provides positive direction at the start of each day.

VK Strongly Stands for State and Language

VK Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli said the newspaper, now in its 27th year, continues to give priority to issues concerning Kannada language, land, water and employment. He underlined its focus on hyperlocal reporting, investigative journalism and public interest campaigns that strengthen governance and empower citizens. Recognising achievers from rural and urban regions alike, he said, is part of the publication's broader commitment to nurturing a progressive and confident Karnataka.

Achievement is the Result of Years of Hard Work

Actor Sanjana Anand noted that encouraging talent and perseverance has always been a hallmark of Vijay Karnataka. She observed that true achievement is the result of years of discipline, hard work and sacrifice, and congratulated the families who stood firmly behind the awardees throughout their journeys.

What AWARDEES said

"This recognition reinforces my commitment to strengthening our presence in the hospitality sector. I sincerely acknowledge the consistent support of my family, friends and workforce, whose contribution has been vital to this journey."
– Anil Honnasagadde Krishnamurthy,
Founder, Hotel Apoorva Veg, Mandya

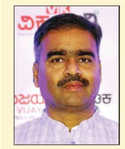
"Extending credit is not merely a financial service, it is about facilitating aspirations. Our focus has been on delivering timely and accessible housing finance across Karnataka. This honour further strengthens our responsibility to serve with integrity."
– H R Ashok Andani, Founder,
Janahitha Housing Loans And Finance India Services

"For close to 15 years, I have been practising orthopaedics in Shivamogga and introduced robotic surgical technology in Central Karnataka, successfully treating nearly 200 patients. I dedicate this recognition to my medical team and the patients who placed their trust in us."
– Dr Girish Kumar K,
Managing Director, Aradhana Orthopaedic Centre, Shivamogga

"Our emphasis has been on adopting modern technology to deliver cost efficient and sustainable construction solutions, particularly in eco-friendly dry construction. This award encourages us to continue raising professional standards."
– Mahendra Kattamanchi,
Proprietor, Lasya Interiors, Ekadanta Layout, Electronic City, Bengaluru

"The platform enabled meaningful interaction with achievers from diverse sectors and facilitated constructive discussions on key issues. Such initiatives contribute positively to institutional and social progress."
– H.C. Mallikarjun,
President, Primary Agriculture Credit Co-Operative Society, Echagatta, Davanagere & Vice-President, Davangere Areca Development, Processing and Marketing Co-Operative Society (DAMCOS, Davanagere).

"My late father devoted over four decades to ophthalmology, performing more than eight lakh successful surgeries and conducting thousands of free eye camps. This acknowledgement of his lifelong service is a proud moment for our family and the medical community."
– Dr Vijay,
Ophthalmologist, Son of Late Prof Dr K Nagaraja, Kondlahalli, Molakalmuru, Chitradurga District



"Our social initiatives have always been carried out with sincerity and without expectation of recognition. This honour increases our accountability and motivates us to expand our outreach."
– Nagaraju S,
Managing Trustee, Horatti Foundation; President, Karnataka Families Association, Holalkere, Chitradurga

"As a chartered engineer and urban planner, I have contributed to housing and urban development initiatives, including affordable group housing projects. This recognition encourages continued professional contribution towards inclusive development."
–CC Ramesh,
Chartered Engineer & Urban Planner, Vasthushilpa, Architect, Engineering, Project Management Consultancy, Bengaluru.

"Since 1979, I have been engaged in environmental education and community awareness programmes. I am grateful that these efforts have been recognised and acknowledge the support of my students and family."
– Dr Sarathi Manjappa,
Director, Research and Consultancy, Sahyadri Engineering and Management College, Mangaluru; Advisor, Jain Institute of Technology, Davanagere

"It is an honour to have my service in the public welfare department recognised alongside distinguished achievers from various fields. I value this acknowledgement."
– Shashidhar K C,
Office Manager, District Backward Classes Welfare Department, Chitradurga

"Through my entrepreneurial ventures and family trust, we have undertaken several community initiatives without seeking visibility. This recognition strengthens our commitment to continue meaningful social engagement."
– Shivakumar Jagate,
Managing Director, Jagate Industries, Jagate Gensets, Bengaluru, Jagate Mist Estate Home Stay and Founder, Malnad Sangha, Vanagur

"Recognising achievers across sectors reinforces their commitment to service and excellence. I appreciate this initiative that celebrates contributions to society."
– Dr Siddanagowda Patel,
Retired District Surgeon, McGann Teaching District Hospital, Shivamogga

"Our organisation has been engaged in employment services, welfare activities for the underprivileged, animal care and medical camps. I am thankful that these efforts have been formally acknowledged."
– Siddesh T S,
CEO, Sunrise Facility Services and Sri Sai Trust, Shivamogga

"Recognition of professional efforts serves as motivation to achieve higher standards. From a modest beginning, we have expanded to multiple healthcare facilities, and this honour inspires us to further strengthen our services."
– Dr. Sujatha Karunakara,
Managing Director, Dr Karunakara & Nagarajegowda Multispecialty Hospital (Prajwal Health Care), Mysore

"Honouring achievers enhances their social responsibility and encourages continued excellence in their respective domains. Such recognition contributes to broader community development."
– Sushma Ravikumar,
Founder-Chairman, Janaseva Trust, Chiguru Ashrama, Mysuru

"Through our sericulture centre, we have supported 5,000 to 6,000 farmers by supplying silkworms and promoting sustainable livelihoods. This recognition affirms our ongoing commitment to farmers' welfare."
– Thyagaraja K V,
Proprietor Muganakoppalu Chawki Rearing Centre, Malavalli.

Devanahalli emerges as property investment hotspot

North Bengaluru, particularly Devanahalli, is fast emerging as a preferred destination for property buyers, driven by infrastructure growth, improved connectivity, and long-term investment potential. With proximity to Kempegowda International Airport and upcoming industrial and technology hubs, the region has witnessed steady demand from both end users and investors.

Real estate developers say buyers are now looking beyond central business districts and focusing on emerging growth corridors. "North Bengaluru offers a strong combination of infrastructure, open spaces and future appreciation. Devanahalli has transformed into a planned growth zone with excellent connectivity," said Ramesh Kumar, a city-based real estate consultant. Expansion of road networks, proposed metro connectivity, and commercial developments have strengthened buyer confidence.

Industry experts note that compared to saturated localities in central and east Bengaluru, North Bengaluru still offers relatively competitive pricing, larger layouts, and gated community projects.

"Homebuyers today are thinking long term. They want better quality of life, less congestion and access to workplaces. With IT and aerospace parks coming up in and around Devanahalli, demand has increased significantly," said Vijay Reddy, Sales Director at a leading development firm.

Developers also report growing interest from NRI investors and aviation professionals. With infrastructure projects progressing steadily, market observers believe North Bengaluru will remain one of the most attractive real estate micro markets in the coming years. **BMB**

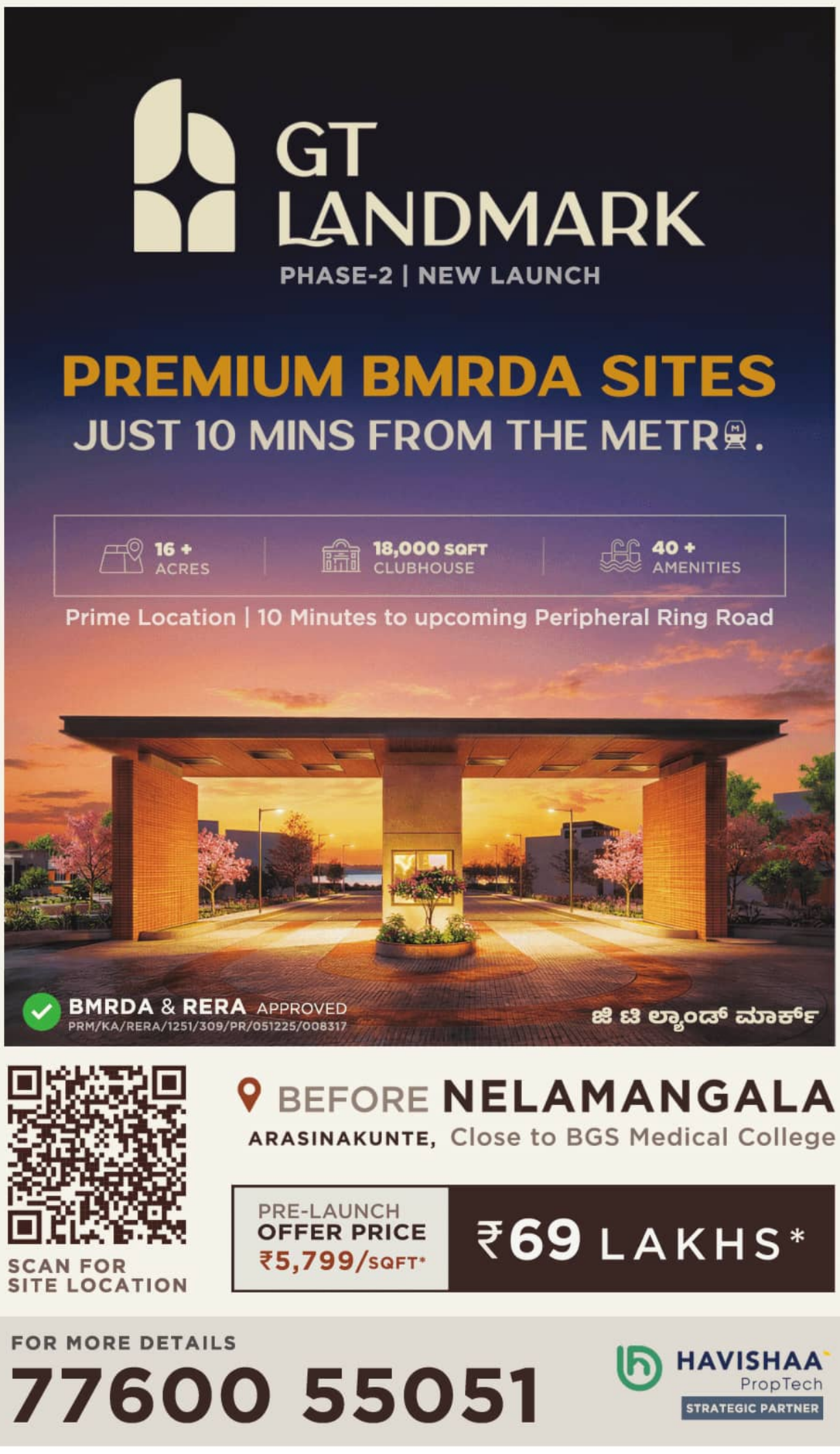
Investors eye Nelamangala for future property gains

Nelamangala is steadily positioning itself as one of the most promising real estate destinations in North Bengaluru. Once considered a quiet peripheral taluk, the area now attracts significant attention from homebuyers and investors due to its strategic location and improving infrastructure. With strong connectivity to Tumakuru Road, proposed metro extensions, and rail links, Nelamangala offers seamless access to key parts of the city while retaining relatively affordable property prices.

Developers say plotted developments and residential layouts in pockets such as Bylalu are witnessing steady demand. "Buyers are actively exploring Nelamangala because it offers value for money and long-term appreciation potential. Connectivity has improved drastically, and infrastructure projects in the pipeline are adding to investor confidence," said a Bengaluru based developer.

BM Property
Every Saturday
Contact for advertisement
Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

The region's growing industrial base has strengthened its appeal. Manufacturing and logistics hubs around Nelamangala have generated employment, creating housing demand near workplaces. Educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and retail outlets are expanding, while proximity to Kempegowda International Airport and major highways increases its attractiveness for professionals and investors alike today. **BMB**



Premium plots in Kaggalipura see strong demand

Property investment along Kanakapura Road continues to be a prestige move for Bengalureans, and premium residential plots in Kaggalipura are now witnessing rising demand.

Positioned as a key realty hub under the proposed Greater Bengaluru South district plan, the area offers modern amenities at prices that suit middle class buyers. With reputed educational institutions and prominent religious centres nearby, Kaggalipura has emerged as a preferred residential pocket for families seeking connectivity and long term investment value and stability.

"Infrastructure is the biggest driver. The proposed Satellite Ring Road will connect Kanakapura Road to Ramanagara via Anekal, boosting regional access. The four lane Kanakapura Road already ensures smooth connectivity to core localities such as Jayanagar, Basavanagudi and Banashankari, while passing through developed neighbourhoods like JP Nagar and Kumaraswamy Layout.

Upcoming metro expansion, road upgrades and other mega infrastructure projects will ease traffic congestion and improve access to the city.

With IT firms, corporate offices, malls and entertainment hubs coming up around the corridor, and cosmopolitan residents driving demand for restaurants, wellness centres and retail spaces, property values in and around Kaggalipura are steadily climbing," added Ramya Kumar, a developer. **BMB**

Bengaluru dominates India commercial office sector with record leasing, lowest vacancy levels decade, strong demand outlook ahead

Bengaluru has cemented its position as the country's top commercial office market, with record leasing activity driving vacancy levels to their lowest point in a decade, according to the Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA). As of June 30, Grade A office stock across India's six largest cities totalled about 1,030 million square feet (msf), with Bengaluru holding the largest share at 26 per cent. Delhi-NCR followed with 19 per cent, while the Mumbai Metropolitan Region held 18 per cent, ICRA said Friday.

The IT capital's vacancy rate, currently at 9.8 per cent, is expected to decline to between 9.0 and 9.5 per cent by FY2026. Strong leasing from Global Capability Centres, BFSI firms, flex-space operators, and domestic IT-BPM companies drives this trend. ICRA expects demand to remain strong through March 2026, ensuring steady net absorption despite new supply.

Other major markets also show positive trends. Chennai will likely maintain vacancy between 9.0 and 9.5 per cent, supported by about 5 msf of supply. Delhi-NCR may see vacancy ease from 22.4 per cent to 21.5–22 per cent, with nearly 12 msf additions. Hyderabad is expected to hold vacancy at 17.5–18 per cent, supported by 15.5 msf additions. The MMR and Pune are also projected to record declines, reflecting healthy occupier demand.

Nationwide, the office market will add about 63–64 msf of Grade A supply in FY2026.

Abhishek Lahoti, Assistant Vice President and Sector Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said, "The combination of sustained demand from diverse sectors and steady completions will keep India's commercial office market on a stable growth path over the next two years, with Bengaluru leading the charge." **BMB**

Record leasing pushes B'luru vacancy to decade low

England's victory keeps Pakistan's hopes alive

Tight bowling, dashing partnership

Already qualified for semifinals, England defeated New Zealand by four wickets to maintain a clean slate in the Super Eights stage and keep Pakistan's hopes alive in the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

England have registered three wins in as many matches in the Super Eights. New Zealand are placed second in Group 2 with three points.

Pakistan are placed third with one point and they need to win big against already-ousted Sri Lanka on Saturday to dislodge New Zealand from the second spot and qualify for the semifinals.

England's Rehan Ahmed, left, and Will Jacks encourage each other as they bat

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Lockie Ferguson celebrate the wicket of England's Sam Curran

Earlier, England restricted New Zealand to 159 for seven after the Kiwis opted to bat.

New Zealand batters got starts but couldn't convert them into big scores.

Glenn Phillips (39), Tim Seifert (35), Finn Allen (29) and Mark Chapman (15) all got starts but failed to prolong their stay at the crease. For England, Will Jacks (2/23), Adil Rashid (2/28) and Rehan Ahmed (2/28) were the main wicket takers, while Liam Dawson (1/32) chipped in with a wicket.

Chasing, England started shakily before some useful contributions from Tom Banton (33), Will Jacks (32 not out), skipper Harry Brook (26), Sam Curran (24) and Rehan Ahmed (19 not out) took them home in 19.3 overs.

For New Zealand, Rachin Ravindra (3/19) was the pick of the bowlers. —PTI

Today's match

Sri Lanka V/S Pakistan

07.00 pm

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ADMINISTRATION

SENIOR / TOP MANAGERS

WE Are hiring Channel Partners as Team Leaders in Bnkng & Financ. Servs. High Earning with Fix Salary, Travel, Rewards, & Rec. Age Above 40 Yrs, Min 12th Pass: 6364688752

OTHER VACANCIES

DRIVERS

EARN up to 15,000 Join Rapido Today! Requirements: DL, Bike, Aadhaar or PAN Immediate Joining Available Call now to join: 08071934929

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

WE-ARE-HIRING
1) Field execuitve - 2 nos.
2) Field Manager - 2 nos with minimum 3year experience Two wheeler is must.
3) Telecallers - 2 nos Mandatory Malayalam and English.
Call: 8904469899 / 8904439899.
Send CV to this no : 9243438537

RETIRED PERSONS

JOB Opportunity for Retired Men, House Wife & Graduates in any reputed Co. Age 40 to 80, BANGALOREANS ONLY. Earn upto 75,000. Ph: 7204266884

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

BANASHANKARI

COLDWELL BANKER
VALUE ADD REALTY

BRIGADE KOMARLA Heights.Premium Apts with Modern Amenities.Limited 2/3 BHKs Available from Rs.16,000/Sft onwards.Call : 080-47359944

DEVANAHALLI

✔ **READY** to Register Plots Available for Sale Near Nandi Upachar. Plot Sizes are 1200 Sqft @5000/Sqft. Realtors are Welcome. Contact: +91 919 919 4442.

HENNUR

40X60 Site for Sale Bileshivale Hennur Off Elu's Main Rd, Near Purva Palm Beach Call: 9901115611 / 8431659271

JALAHALLI

30×52 PLOT at D Block, Malla sandra Village, Bagalkunte, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, B.lore. just 2 km from Jalahalli Metro Station. Contact - 95603 15388.

MG ROAD & AROUND

OFFICE/ RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT @ M.G ROAD Bangalore

FOR RENT: 1st & 2nd floor, Office/ Retail space, Measuring 1000 sq ft @ M.G Road, For more details contact: 9844000156.

RAJAJI NAGAR

TO Let brand brand new 13000sft Grade A commercial space bang on West of Chord road. East facing with 15pax lift, 10 car stacked parking, 400kva transformer. Suitable for High retail, Corporate offices, Top Jewellery brands and Diagnostic centers. Brokers, F&B and Gym tenants excuse. 9686111709

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

3 BHK New Premium Apt, Bhoopsandra. East Entrance. Quiet Neighbourhood. 2.3Cr. Ph: 9986355796

FOR SALE - PLOT IN BIDADI

East-facing corner plot, 1500 sq.ft, gated layout. BMRDA A-Khata. Near Toyota & Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. Call: 9886118912

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. All creatives marked as Advertorial, Spotlight and Promotional Features are to be treated as Advertisements. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

FOR Sale 45x80, BDA North East Facing Site in Anjanapura 3rd A Block, with Fencing on 60' Road, Clear Title, Single Owner call Rajesh 98451 67755

60×40 site South facing, 2nd block Vishweshwaraiya layout, on 60feet road, Suitable for commercial building, please contact 9113013428

SALE 2776 sft East facing E-khata site at Horamavu Agara in gated community. Rs 7500/sft. Call 9945694511

SOUTH facing Propriety plot sale in Begur, 40'×52', car shed with electrical power, and bore well water with compond. A Katha and E katha. Please call 9686016555

FOR Sale fully furnished 5 BHK Premium 3003sft apart 300mt from Trinity Circle,MG road, opp FAP school,Ulsoor with 2 parking.cont 8217483566.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sudharshanreddy B N R/o Bhimanahalli Ramapura Gauribidnur Chikkaballapur-561210 Have changed my name to Sudharshana Reddy Bhimanahalli Narasimhaiah

I, Gayitridevi Joshi w/o santosh Anantrao Desai, Flat no T-3 VN residency subramanyapura Bengaluru 560061,I changed my to Gayathri Santosh Desai

I, Rahul Suresh Ghali R/o #74,1A Main Road, BEML 10th Stage Rajarajeshwarinagar B'luru-560098 have changed my minor daughter name from Sanika Ghali to Sanika Rahul Ghali

I, RUSHAB RAMACHANDRA (Old name) Residing at No. 17-1 New Binnamangala Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru -560038 have changed my name to RUSHAB SHAMANNA RAMACHANDRA (RUSHAB S R) (New name) vide affidavit dated: 26/2/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, VIJAYA VITTALA GIRI S, aged about 20 years, S/o Sri Shreedhara G, Residing at No. 306, Dwarkanagara 1st stage, BDA Link Road, Channasandra Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, I hereby declare that My father's Name is Shreedhara G, S/o Giriyappa instead of Sreedhar G and Date of Birth 20/05/1977 instead of 22/02/1977. My mother's name Ramyashree instead of Ramya. Both the names belongs to my Father and Mother only. vide affidavit dt: 24/02/2026 before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

I Aqheel ahmed s/o pk Thurabuddin 22 income tax layout khushhalnagar kg halli have changed my name to pk AQHEEL AHMED s/o pk Thurabuddin for all purposes

I, PRAVALLIKA, Residing at No 28, Hari Krupa, 12th Cross, 6th Main, Shreyas Colony, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Have changed my name to PRAVALLIKA. S vide affidavit dated 27/02/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Blore

I, Sukumar S/O, Srinivas Moorthy R/o #317 Bluejay Ardley Phase 2 Near Club House Doddabele Village Bangaluru 560060 have changed my name to Sukumar Bhat for all purposes.

I, Umesha Chikkamavathur Siddalingiah S/o Siddalingiah R/o No 30,Chikkamavathur Grama Huliyura Durga Hobali,Doddamavathur, Kunigal, Tumkur-572130.Have Changed my name to Umesh Chikkamavathur Siddalingiah for All Purposes.

I, Saritha Josephine David. R/o. NO. 202, 2nd Floor, Nexsa Acuity, 1st Main Road, Byrathi, Kothanur, BLR-560077. Changed My Name from Saritha Josephine Harry To Saritha Josephine David to all further purposes. (Reference Date of Birth 10/02/1985).

I, Akash Navinkumar Chawda S/o.Navinkumar Jethalal Chawda, residing at 1111, Assetz Sun & Sanctum, Kithaganur Main Rd, Battarahalli, Bengaluru – 560049, Karnataka wish to change my name from Akash Navinbhai Chawda to Akash Navinkumar Chawda vide affidavit dtd: 29/01/2026 sworn before notary K B Sadha Shivappa, Blr.

I Tousia siddiqi w/o Aqheel ahmed 22 income tax layout khushhalnagar kg halli Have changed my name to TAUSIA SIDDIQI w/o PK AQHEEL AHMED for all purposes

I, Nirupa Gadi W/o Mahesh Reddy Gadi Flat-no 214, 2nd Flr Balaji Aavas Channasandra Main Rd Hope Farm Whitefield Bangalore -560066 have changed my name to Nirupa Yandapalli for all purposes

I Syed hussain S/O Syed basheer No2 cno 6th Street stephen square north block chani chowk road cross Bangalore 560051,have change name to Syed hussain malik

I Ravi s/o Anand Prakash No 22, 2nd Cross, Gundappa Road, Kyasnahalli, kithanur ,Bangalore-560077 have changed my name to RAVI .A for all purposes

I, Padmavathi Koride R/o. NO. 301, Hoysala Dreamz, Seenappa Layout, New BEL Road,BLR-560094. Changed My Name from Padmavathi Kadayinti To Padmavathi Koride to all further purposes.(Reference Date of Birth 19/08/1971).

I, BHAVNA E C, Residing at No 32, 22nd A Main, Marenahalli, J P Nagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Have changed my name to BHAVNA EMA CHAKRAPANI vide affidavit dated 27/02/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Blore

I, Rama Mohan Venkata Kadayinti R/o. NO. 301, Hoysala Dreamz, Seenappa Layout, New BEL Road, BLR-560094. Changed My Minor Son Name from Vimal Anurag Kashyap To Vimal Anurag Kashyap Kadayinti to all further purposes. (Reference Date of Birth 25/05/2013).

GALLERIA

Nirmala Travels® Presents
Ph No. 0824 2497051/54, 9663518877, 9663528877, 9686687771/2/3/4
visit us @ www.nirmalatravels.com
TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
MAR: 3, 8, 8* 13, 14**, 15*, 18, 22*, 23, 28, 24** APR: 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26
GURUVAYUR TRIVENDRUM/CHOTTANIKARA* 7/5* DAYS
MAR: 8, 10*, 15, 17*, 22, 24* APR: 5, 7*, 12, 14*, 19, 21*, 26
KANCHI MAHABLIPURA PONDICHERY 4 DAYS MAR: 1, 8, 15, 22
BELUR KAMALASHILE SIGANDHOOR 4 DAYS MAR: 12, 19, 26
NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 4 DAYS MAR: 9, 16, 23 APR: 6, 13, 20, 27
HAMPI PATTADAKAL IHOLE 5 DAYS MAR: 8, 15, 22 APR: 5, 12, 19, 26
HILL STATION SPECIAL 7 DAYS MAR: 15, 22 APR: 5, 12, 19, 26
COORG SPECIAL 3 DAYS MAR: 6, 13, 20, 27 APR: 4, 11, 18, 25

 # It's a winner — BAFTA-winning film 'Boong' set to re-release in theatres on March 6, makers drop new poster

It might get intense

Taapsee Pannu has been praised for her strong acting in the new film Assi. The movie, directed by Anubhav Sinha, also stars Kani Kusruti, Manoj Pahwa, Kumud Mishra, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Seema Pahwa, Supriya Pathak, and Naseeruddin Shah. It was released in theaters on February 20, along with Do Deewane Seher Mein, featuring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Mrunal Thakur. In a recent video, Taapsee asked people to watch her film in theatres.

On February 27, actress Taapsee took to Instagram to share a heartfelt video. In the clip, she spoke about her experience reading the audience and critic reviews for her latest film, 'Assi'. Talking about how different films evoke different kinds of reactions, she said in Hindi, "Some films get messages saying – What a story! Some films get messages saying – What an amazing character to play! And some films get messages saying – Thank you for doing this film! Some films get reviews saying – What an entertaining watch. Must see! And some films get reviews saying – Very uncomfortable. Disgusted, but a must see! – Such a film came 6 years ago – Thappad – and fortunately, another film starring the same director came a week ago – Assi. So many lovely messages, so many validating reviews, but most importantly So many people have taken this issue personally and what beautiful articles, videos, I have seen them all, read them all, maybe you too must have read and seen them."

She continued, "If you have seen and read so many of them, then there must be something special. So if you feel that you should see it, what kind of picture is this for which so many people are writing with so much intensity, so much love, so much passion, then watch it once." **—ETimes**

Posing for paps

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda tied the knot in Udaipur on February 26. The couple had an intimate ceremony in presence of their family and close friends. As they returned from Udaipur on Friday afternoon, they finally posed for the paps as a couple. While Rashmika exuded the new bride glow and opted for a bright red outfit with gold work on it, Vijay was seen in a greyish silver kurta pyjama set. They walked hand in hand and posed for the paps. They also did a namaste and threw flying kisses at them as the members of the paparazzi congratulated the couple.

Both Vijay and Rashmika dropped first pictures from their wedding on Thursday evening with notes for each other. **—ETimes**

Non-stop grind

Isha Koppikar speaks about tough working hours in film industry

Isha Koppikar recently spoke about the tough working hours in films and TV during an interview. Their talk comes at a time when many in the industry are discussing long work shifts, especially after Deepika Padukone reportedly asked for an 8-hour workday on films like 'Spirit' and the upcoming 'Kalki 2898 AD' sequel. In the past year, several stars have shared their views; some agree with the shorter shifts, while others are not so sure.

While talking to comedian Bharti Singh and her husband Haarsh Limbachiyaa on their YouTube channel, Isha joined a lighthearted conversation that soon took a cheeky turn.

Bharti spoke about her interest in joining politics but admitted she wouldn't have enough time because of her two young kids. Hearing this, Isha smiled and remarked, "But nowadays, you're expected to give only 8 hours. Those who have children get just 8 hours," seemingly throwing shade at Deepika Padukone's reported demand for an 8-hour workday after motherhood. Amused by her comment, Haarsh quickly asked, "Who said that?" prompting Isha to laugh and respond, "I don't know."

Bharti was taken aback by Isha's remark and couldn't hide her reaction. When the topic shifted to Isha's own work routine, she explained, "They make you work until you can't stand," describing the exhausting nature of her schedule.

Reflecting on her early days in the industry, Isha spoke about a time when back-to-back film shoots pushed her to her limits. She recalled shooting for 'Ek Vivaah Aisa Bhi' and 'Right Ya Wrong' without a proper break, which eventually took a toll on her health. "It was so hectic at that time that I didn't even have time to go home from Film City, so I asked the producer to organize a place for me to stay there. I used to shoot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and then from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next day. This cycle repeated for five days, and on the sixth day, I ended up in the hospital," she said.

—ETimes

Going to the races

VEERA KAMBALA

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** SV Rajendra Singh Babu
- **ACTORS** Adithya, Prakash Raj, Ravi Shankar, Radhika Narayan, Naveen D Padil, Gopinath Bhat, Bojaraj Vamanjur, Usha Bhandary
- **Duration** 154 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

With this film, veteran director SV Rajendra Singh Babu tries to depict the historical buffalo race of Tulu Nadu in Karnataka in an elaborate manner and convey a message on the importance of peace among different caste and community people in rural areas. A court scene throws light on the legal issues pertaining to the buffalo race. It also highlights how politicians try to get maximum publicity by associating or funding buffalo races in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

The movie begins with a camel race in Dubai where Raj (Shobaraj) operates online betting. Satya (Aditya), who hails from Tulu Nadu and lives in Dubai, decides to teach Raj a lesson. Satya causes Raj to become bankrupt and also antagonises Bhavani, an underworld don. Later, the scene shifts to Tulu Nadu where Deepu (Gopinath Bhat) wants to revive the buffalo race that was stopped 68 years ago due to an enmity between the Manjottiguttu and Mahabala families. Deepu meets Karna (Naveen Padil), an expert in buffalo race, seeking his guidance. Meanwhile, a tussle between an MLA and former MLA becomes a hurdle to organising the buffalo race. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Deepu manages to revive the buffalo race.

It is quite surprising to see Aditya, who looks like an underworld don, in such a role. He has nothing to do except appear in a few scenes. Prakash Raj and Ravi Shankar are equally good in the court scene. Radhika Narayan, who plays the superintendent of police, also has nothing to do in this movie. Naveen Padil has acted well. Bhojaraj Vamanjur has tried his best to tickle audiences' funny bones. The scenes of buffalo race add value to the movie. Cinematographer R Giri has done a good job in capturing the race.

The pre-intermission session looks off and Shobaraj has failed to impress as a bookie.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch if you want to understand the importance of Kambala in some parts of Karnataka.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

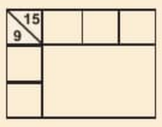
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

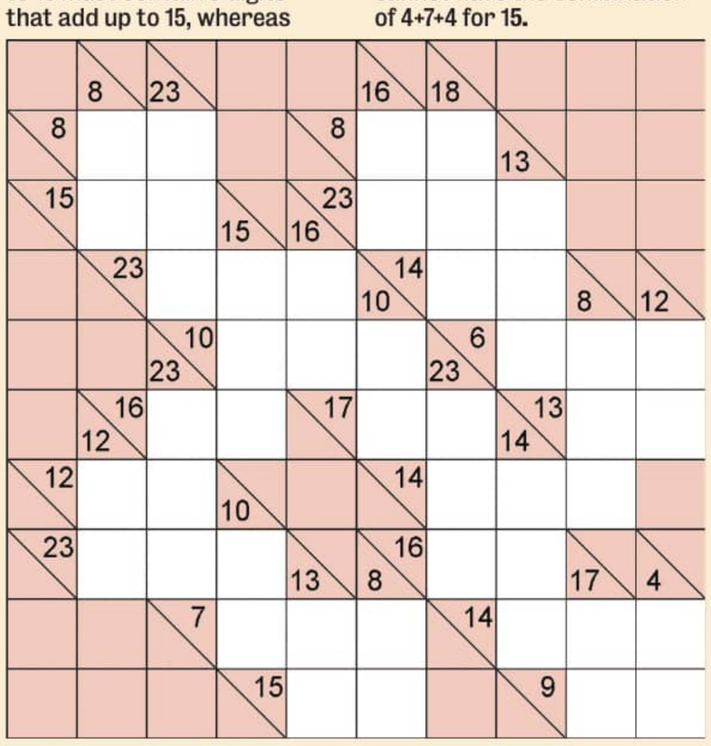
A doubles every minute and B triples every minute. In 5 minutes their sum is 339. What were A and B at the start?

Kakuro

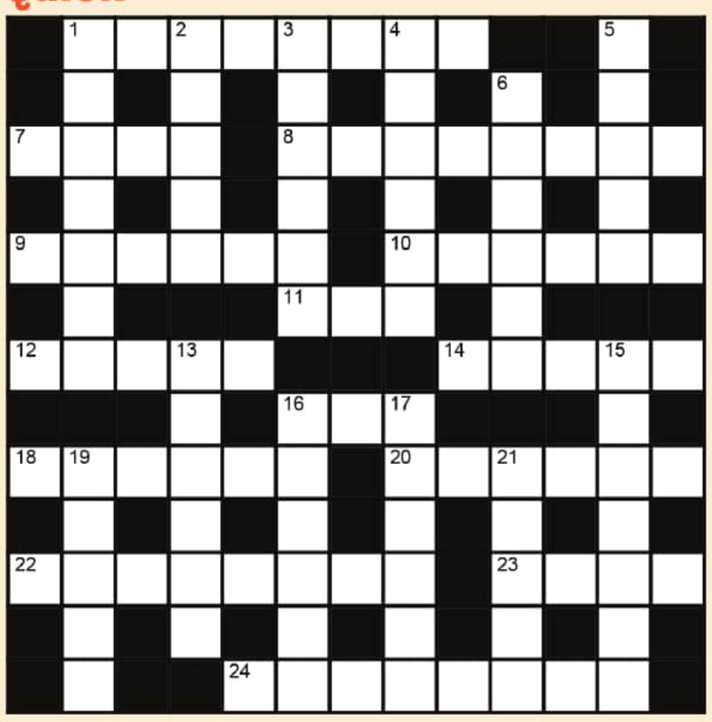
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Disaster (8)
7 Greek goddess of the earth (4)
8 ___ ___ cups: What Donne Biryani is served in (4,4)
9 Paper handkerchief (6)
10 Most urgent or desperate (6)
11 Pair (3)
12 Clemency (5)
14 Unfilled, vacant or vacuous (5)
16 Ram's mate (3)
18 Large-scale arrival (6)
20 Merely or easily (6)
22 Major city of Oahu (8)
23 Sudden attack (4)
24 Distantly (8)

DOWN

1 Church vessel (7)
2 Lends money (5)
3 Emulated a cartographer (6)
4 Fine sword (6)
5 Hoboes' bundles (5)
6 More than one (6)
13 Inexperienced or raw (6)
15 Nothingness (7)
16 Disinter (6)
17 Portuguese money formerly (6)
19 Secluded corners (5)
21 Come together (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS H

GTA FVWPYM EWKZUJ VOF TAZUK SUEW_KU VU YOUF MWNA JW FYUUI.

Linemaro

You have something common with the weather. You're both hot

Mindchow

Time stays long enough for those who use it

Joke of the day

There were times when my pant was so thin I could sit on a coin and tell if it was heads or tails

Loop

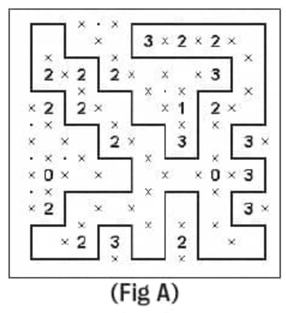
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

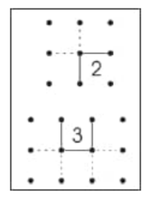
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

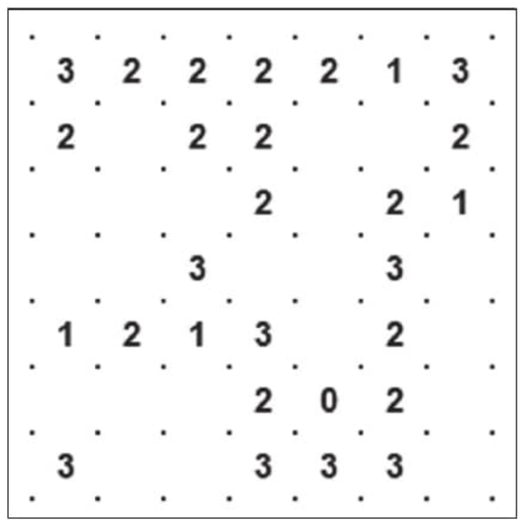
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



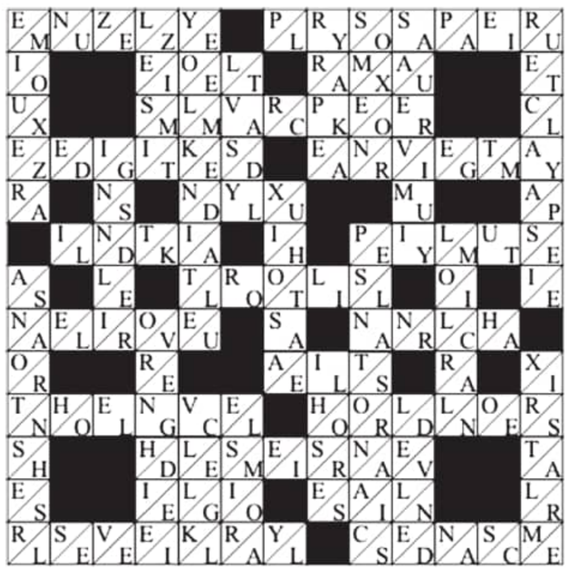
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



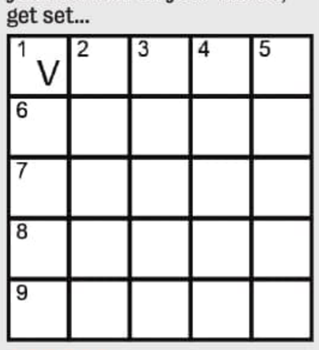
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

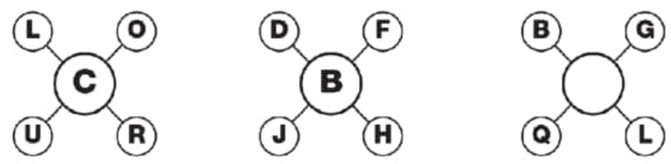
1 Slave; 6 Ceria; 7 Motes; 8 Niche; 9 Death

DOWN

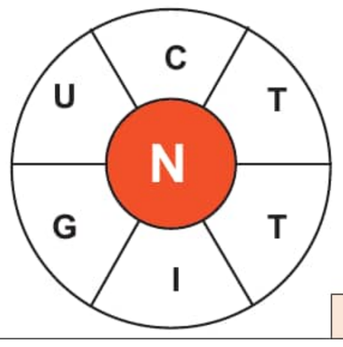
1 Ch vet; 2 A hoar; 3 It mil; 4 Neces; 5 Aedes

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the last puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4	1							
9		3		8		5		
	7			6	3			
	9				2		6	4
		5				8		
8	3		4				9	
			7	9			2	
		4		1		6		9
							8	1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 11

2 8 8 9

Medium

= 14

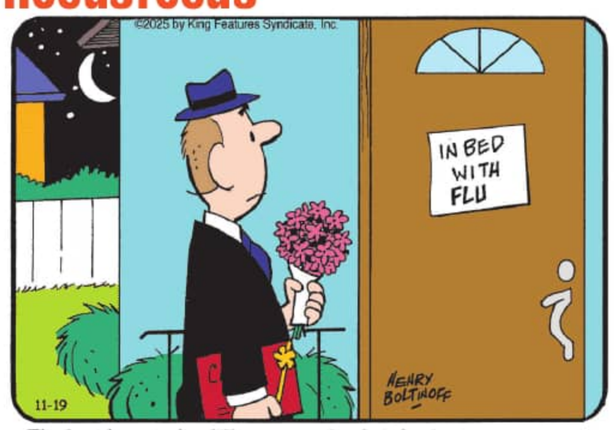
4 7 7 9

Hard

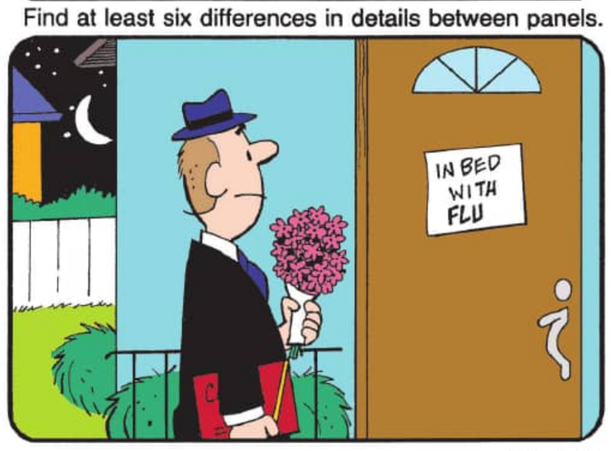
= 1

2 1 6 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



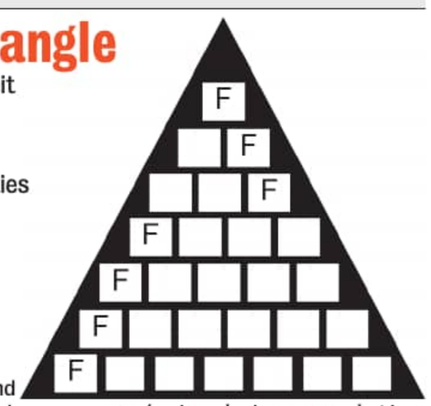
Differences: 1. There are more flowers. 2. Bow on box is missing. 3. Railing is longer. 4. Moon is lower. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Ear is smaller.

Riddler

My keyboard isn't working correctly, with vowels not appearing and the space bar only working now and again. What did we mean by the sentence below? SPCTH FNLFR NTRTH SRTHV YGSFT HSTRS HPNTR PRS!

Alpha triangle

1 Degree Fahrenheit
2 Whenever
3 Wife of Thor
4 Shark signs
5 Monetary penalties
6 Pretends
7 Frilly borders

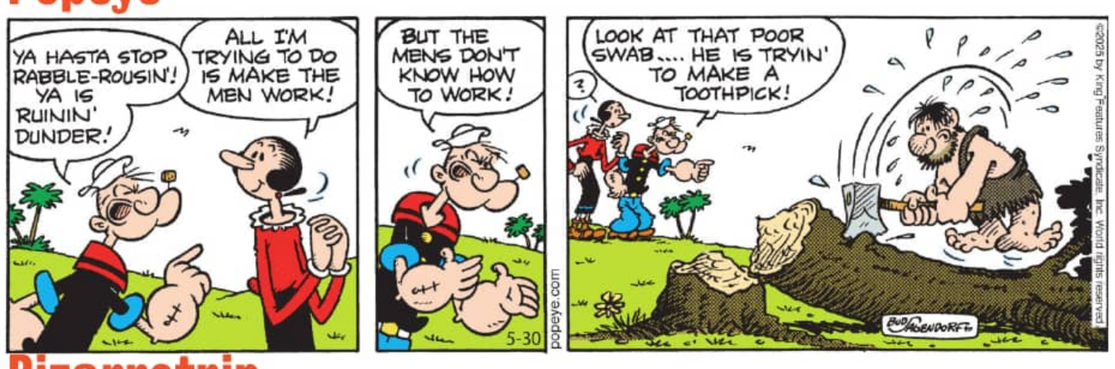


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

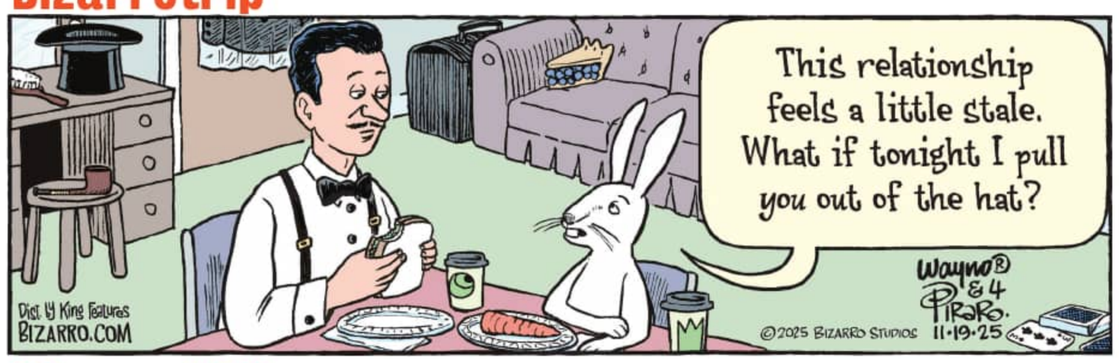
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YA HASTA STOP RABBLE-ROUSIN'! YA IS RUININ' DUNDER!
ALL I'M TRYING TO DO IS MAKE THE MEN WORK!
BUT THE MENS DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK!
5-30
LOOK AT THAT POOR SWAB.... HE IS TRYIN' TO MAKE A TOOTHPICK!
BOB MONDORFF
popeye.com
©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Bizarrotrip


This relationship feels a little stale. What if tonight I pull you out of the hat?
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno® & PIRARO. 11·19·25
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

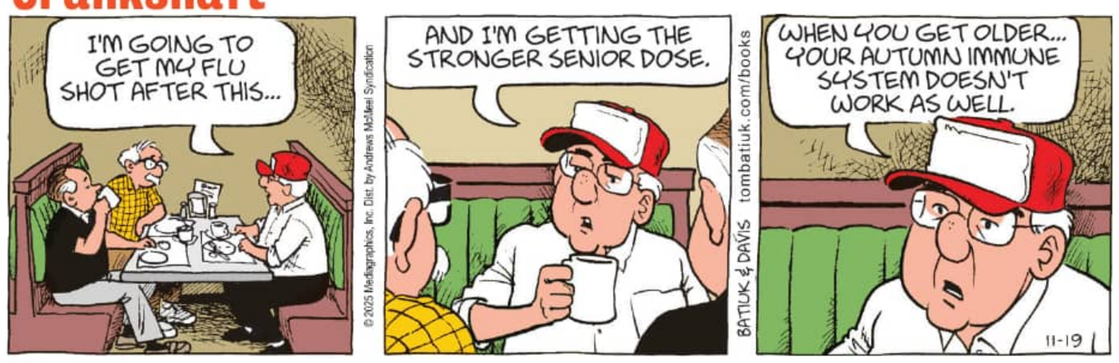
Diamond Lil

MY OLD UNCLE SILAS ALWAYS USED TO SAY, "HERMAN, NEVER GIVE NOOGIES TO A GRIZZLY BEAR"
DID I EVER MEET HIM?
YOU MAY HAVE
WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
HE HAD THESE GREAT BIG CLAW MARKS ON HIS FACE
©2014 creators.com
www.creators.com
BARRETT

Hart of the city

HEY! YOU'RE NOT PART CAT! YOU'RE JUST A TEENAGER!
I'M NOT JUST ANY TEENAGER. I'M SINGLE-HANDEDLY KEEPING THIS CITY FROM BEING OVERRUN WITH CATS!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
SO YOU DO EAT THE CATS?!
NO! I TAKE THEM TO GET SPAYED OR NEUTERED.
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
THAT'S A LOT BETTER.
NOD NOD

Crankshaft


I'M GOING TO GET MY FLU SHOT AFTER THIS...
AND I'M GETTING THE STRONGER SENIOR DOSE.
WHEN YOU GET OLDER... YOUR AUTUMN IMMUNE SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK AS WELL.
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
11-19

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Reflective and purposeful, your year focuses on spiritual and professional growth. Career paths become clearer through meditation and introspection. Love is deep and soulful, transcending the everyday. Domestic life is a quiet haven for your thoughts and dreams. Travel to sacred or historical sites is transformative. Financial stability is achieved through mindfulness and avoiding all impulsive spending.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

A surge of creative energy helps you solve problems today. Approach challenges with a fresh perspective. Your enthusiasm is contagious, making it a great day for team projects and collaborative work.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Comfort and relaxation are your priorities today. Take time for simple pleasures. Nurturing your home environment brings a sense of security and great peace of mind for you and family.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Intellectual pursuits bring you great satisfaction today. Engage in learning or stimulating debate. Your quick wit helps you navigate complex information, leading to valuable insights and exciting new career possibilities.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional clarity helps you move forward with confidence today. Trust your feelings and express them honestly. This authenticity strengthens your bonds with loved ones and brings a sense of peace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your charisma attracts positive attention today. Use this influence to advocate for your ideas. Your warmth and generosity make a lasting impression on everyone you encounter during your busy day.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Practical planning leads to successful outcomes today. Focus on the details of your projects. Your hard work is noticed, paving the way for future rewards and significant professional career advancement.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today is perfect for finding balance in your daily routine. Prioritise both work and self-care. This equilibrium ensures you stay energized and ready to handle any task with total grace.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your focus is sharp, allowing you to uncover new opportunities. Stay observant and trust your instincts. Your dedicated efforts will lead to significant progress in your personal and professional life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Adventure and discovery are highlighted for you today. Explore new places or ideas with curiosity. Your open-hearted approach leads to wonderful experiences that broaden your perspective and bring great joy.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Stability and discipline bring you peace of mind today. Stick to your schedule and complete your tasks. Your reliability is appreciated by others, fostering a supportive and very productive environment.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Socializing brings inspiration and new ideas today. Connect with friends and like-minded individuals. These interactions fuel your creativity and help you see the world from a very exciting, fresh perspective.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Compassion for yourself leads to inner healing today. Practice self-care and listen to your heart. This nurturing approach provides the emotional strength needed to pursue your dreams with total confidence.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Rahul, Bengaluru

Khushi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Min A B
0 a b
1 2a 3b
2 4a 9b
3 8a 27b
4 16a 81b
5 32a 243b
b must be 1 because if higher B would exceed 339.
32a=339-243
32a=96
a=3
ANS: a=3, b=1

QUOTE UNCODE

Man should forget his anger before he lies down to sleep.

FAST FIVE

V	A	L	S	E
E	R	I	C	A
T	O	M	E	S
C	H	I	N	E
H	A	T	E	D

STRIKE OUT

M	U	Z	Z	Y	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	E	V	E
I	E	E	L	A	M	U	S	C	E	A	S	E	L	L
X	S	M	A	C	K	E	R	L	I	N	S	I	E	T
E	D	I	T	E	D	E	N	I	G	M	A	P	H	E
R	N	N	Y	X	M	P	I	L	U	S	E	O	A	N
I	N	T	I	H	P	I	L	O	T	H	E	N	C	E
A	E	T	R	O	L	A	R	C	H	E	S	N	E	R
N	E	R	V	E	S	A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T
O	E	A	L	T	A	I	T	H	E	M	E	S	D	E
T	H	E	N	C	E	O	O	D	L	E	S	S	E	D

QUICK

S			R	E	M	O	T	E	L	Y				
K		W		M		D		G		T				
H	O	N	O	L	U	L	U		R	A	I	D		
O		L		H		C		E		L				
I	N	F	L	U	X	S	I	M	P	L	Y			
		A		E	W	E				U				
M	E	R	C	Y		B	L	A	N	K				
C			D	U	O		A							
T	I	S	S	U	E		D	I	R	E	S	T		
G	A	I	A		P	A	L	M	L	E	A	F		
H		O		A		O		P		W		S		
C	A	L	A	M	I	T	Y							

MENSA PUZZLE

E. Going clockwise letters increase in value by the value of the centre letter.

RIDDLER

Space the final frontier. These Are The Voyages Of The Starship Enterprise!

BULL'S EYE

CUTTING, tint, unit

SUDOKU

4	1	8	5	2	7	9	3	6
9	6	3	1	8	4	5	7	2
5	7	2	9	6	3	1	4	8
1	9	7	8	5	2	3	6	4
2	4	5	6	3	9	8	1	7
8	3	6	4	7	1	2	9	5
6	8	1	7	9	5	4	2	3
7	2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9
3	5	9	2	4	6	7	8	1

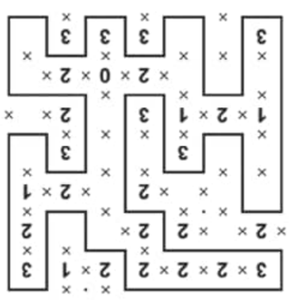
ALPHA TRIANGLE

F, If, Slf, Fins, Fines, Feigns, Fringes.

GO FIGURE

Easy
2 + 9 + 8 – 8 = 11
Medium
4 – 9 + 7 x 7 = 14
Hard
6 – 9 + 2 + 2 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 009 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SAMSUNG

Galaxy S26 Ultra

Galaxy AI ✨

Pre-order now at ₹ 69999* (1 unit)

Retail price of Galaxy S26 Ultra (512GB)	₹ 159999#
Exchange value of old device	₹ 70000~
Memory upgrade benefit	₹ 20000~~
Effective price (1 unit)	**₹ 69999***

Free memory upgrade~~ 256GB to 512GB

Get up to ₹ 3500 off on Galaxy Buds4 Series with any model of Galaxy S26 Series.**

HDFC BANK | BAJAJ FINSERV | IDFC FIRST Bank | TVSCREDIT | Samsung Finance+™

Offer valid till Mar 10, 2026

samsung.com

Please dispose of e-waste and plastic waste responsibly. Customers can WhatsApp on 180057267864 for information on e-waste/plastic waste.

Image simulated. Samsung account login may be required for certain AI features. Actual UX/UI may differ. Samsung promotes responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) features. *T&C apply. Offer price shown for 1 unit of Galaxy S26 Ultra 12GB | 512GB inclusive of exchange value of old device and memory upgrade benefit as detailed further below. Final pricing subject to dealer discretion. #Retail price of 1 unit of Galaxy S26 Ultra 12GB | 512GB. Price inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 unit of Galaxy S24 Ultra 12GB | 512GB. Exchange value varies basis model & condition of old device. Exchange at the sole discretion of dealer. ~~Value of memory upgrade benefit from 256GB to 512GB. Pre-order customers of S26 Ultra 256GB are eligible for benefits of memory upgrade from 256GB to 512GB worth ₹ 20000. **Discount of up to ₹ 3500 is applicable on purchase of Galaxy Buds4 Series together with any model of Galaxy S26 Series. Aforesaid calculations are for illustrative purposes, final price at the sole discretion of retailer. Offer may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. All third party logos/brands are trademarks/registered trademarks of the respective brand/company.

Scan to know more

Cheil-30375/25